

Madison J[ul]y 5th [18]86__

My darling darling Effie__

My own darling little girl__

I was so surprised & pleased this morning to find a letter from you at the office. I didn't let myself hope there would be one & yet I couldn't help kind of hoping that I should get one. You dear girl[,] it was so thoughtful of you to remember my birthday & send me something for the day. I don't mean the gift now but the letter. I do want you so & the letter came at a good time. Darling I hope the weather will moderate a little. Today is not so hot as we feared it would be for there is a fine breeze. The thermom[eter]. isn't much above 80° and the air is dry now but it was cloudy & moist this morning and very close_ I do hope that it won't be a piping hot day on the 7th, our wedding day__ I think of that Effie Darling for it is a lovely thought to me __ our wedding day. Oh you sweet dear girl[,] how it fills my heart with joy as I think of it. I burn to realize it more & more & feel quiet & calm comparatively & yet restless & unsettled. How is that possible __ Well darling this is the way when I am thinking of nothing else but you & the hope & joy it gives me[,] a joy & peace which is quiet & calm but when I try to do anything else I am restless & unsettled. We have stood so much apart & been so miserable that I feel that the only deliverance is in our union and to me it means joy & peace & is drawing so near_ I feel a great responsibility darling for I know that I hold your whole life's happiness in my hand_ I love you with all my heart & I know that I can make your life happy if we both keep this love & I know we will. I fully believe in both my own love & your love for me. Oh darling may God bless us both & keep our hearts very tender & our minds very thoughtful & this will always keep our love very warm_ I can take the marriage vow & promise to always love & cherish & honor you & I know you feel the same_ It is a very sweet thought to me today that this love has grown out of such a dear friendly affection as it has_ I love to think along up to the Summer of 84 and see how it has matured & made us constantly dearer & dearer till at last we were the dearest in all the world each to the other. Only a few more hours & we shall be together again and then we shall not part any more but travel about together.

Darling Θ Θ for the chain. I thank you very much for it & shall like it better than ever before now because of the real association it will have for me_ I hardly think I should have bought it. I should probably have used the money for books but it is better to have it and I am glad I have got it __ and in this way __

Effie darling I thought about the napkins this time as soon as I got here and told them & they will bring them down. Carrie was to spend Tuesday night with Aunt Electa & will do so_ I do not know whether mamma will go down on Tuesday night or early on Wednesday. I told them of what you wrote & don't yet know what they will plan to do_ I shall come down early on Wednesday morning[,] just as early as I can leave here[,] & shouldn't be at all surprised if I got there in time for breakfast for I shall want to get the flowers up to the house before it is hot. I think I shall leave at 7:30 here or on the express at latest. It will depend somewhat upon what

I can get in the way of flowers__ I wont go to the library that day — (joke) Θ Θ Θ_ Darling I am wild with impatience to be with you again_

Papa has gone off to spend the day at angling. I presume he wont catch anything but he don't mind that. The other day he told me privately that he liked to go & fish even if he didn't catch a thing. It was a good time for quiet. He likes to get off that way where there wont be any danger of interruption. I made the ice—cream today & thought it was pretty good. I guess it must have been for no one said it wasn't.

It & going to Madison occupied my morning pretty well and I spent the rest of the time in constructing a tow net to use in Block Island to capture the little sea creatures which float about on the surface_ Maggie wants me to collect some sea weeds for her to float out & press & mount upon pretty cards & dry__ I hunted out my bathing suit. I presume Block Island is so settled that there isnt a distant beach where a fellow can take a plunge au naturel_ I am greatly inclined not to take my poisons[,] etc[,] but I know it a dead certainty that if I do not I shall everlastingly regret it so I guess it will result in my taking them.

We must take something to read & The Mill on the Foss will I presume be one of them & I wish Darling that you would name something else. I am sorry that we shall be in danger of having company at the Island but guess we can freeze the company out for the most part. The worst thing about my having a microscope there will be the curiosity it will excite for people will see me out collecting. By the way we might make enough to pay expenses by exhibiting little animals under it[,] a-la-side-show- but I dont think we will__

Love to all & my darling love love love no end for you[,] my own Effie[,] from your own Harry.

My own darling__

Mamma has just finished one of those beautiful bedspreads & given it to us. It looks lovely and I know you will admire it greatly when you see it. I will bring it down on Wednesday so you can see it. I have something the matter with my right eye. It acts somewhat like a sty. Won't it be beautiful if it is[?] I am rubbing it with a hot gold ring[,] infallible cure. __

We are going now to call on the Vansants. They have decided that I can go__

Love love Θ Θ Θ Θ Θ Θ Θ Θ Θ Θ Θ

Your loving Harry__